



HEADLINES 6TH MAY 2022

St. Mary's Catholic School Newsletter (Issue 29 2021-22)

Refectory Re-Launch!

The builders have been back at St. Mary's!

Work started on the kitchen and dining facilities at the end of January to fully refurbish and modernise our facilities bringing this area into the 21st century. We were able to open the new Refectory just after the Easter break, which is credit to both the builders, our Estates team and Aspens, our catering partners who have been working in temporary kitchens and difficult circumstances for the last few months. Work has included a full re-fit including a new roof, ventilation equipment, flooring, new windows and doors, walls being knocked out and a high-quality durable finish.

The response from the students has been great, they are impressed by the modern feel, environment and the way the space just works much better than it did before. There are lots of menu plans in progress including theme weeks, special events and other ideas. Watch this space!

It was great to see the Year 10s with their parents on-site for Parents' Evening yesterday across the school. The site was buzzing and there were plenty of very useful conversations about learning and progress being had.

Finally, next week we are hosting the Bishop and other VIPs for our 125th Anniversary mass. Please pray for St. Mary, our patron as we celebrate this milestone event.

Tom Johnston, Acting Head of School



**Acting Heads of School Update
Mr Johnston & Miss McHugh**



UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday 10th May 2022
Whole School 125th Anniversary Mass

Monday 16th May 2022
GCSE & A Level Exams Start

Mon 30th May—Friday 3rd June 2022
HALF TERM
School Closed
Pupils return Monday 6th June



St Francis of Assisi
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST





Celebrating Achievement



St. Mary's are very proud to announce the wonderful achievement of Malachi P (Year 11) and Simon P (Year 11) who have been selected to attend Oaklands Basketball Academy next academic year.

Oaklands Basketball Academy in conjunction with Basketball England offers the opportunity for basketball players to combine their academic studies with an elite basketball environment. The programme is unique in giving boys and girls the choice to gain a variety of recognised academic qualifications whilst maximising their basketball potential.



Malachi's achievements:

"During my trial process, I was proud to be selected to be a player under Oakland's Wolves first team, Division 1 Men's alongside my friend Simon. This trial was probably the most competitive trial I have ever been a part of. However, I pushed myself to achieve what I wanted to accomplish which was to be part of the squad. I am excited for what is ahead for me as this a great opportunity."

Simon's achievements:

"During my experiences of the trials, it was great. I was selected to be part of the men's first team with Malachi, and I was put into a position to go under the DiSe programme which is a two-year education unique sporting qualification designed to meet the needs of student athletes who exhibit the potential to achieve excellence in their sport (basketball). I am appreciative to be given a spot in both and I am happy to be playing with Malachi in due time."

Both students want to inspire our young people to strive to succeed the goals and ambitions in life and would like to share the following thoughts:



Sometimes you got to do what you don't enjoy to reap the success that will come from your hard work."

Malachi

"Keep practising to achieve what you are willing to excel in, no matter how difficult your goal is, just keep on going. All that hard work will pay off, just believe!"

Simon



District Basketball Success!



I am delighted to report of the many successes achieved by our Year 7-10 school Basketball teams this year.

The students have shown excellent commitment in their attendance to after school club and they have been duly rewarded with fantastic results in their respective competitions against other schools.

Well done to all involved!

WELL DONE!



Year 7

Winners - JFAN

Runners up - St Marys

3rd - Leventhorpe

4th - Hockerill



Year 8

Winners – St Marys

Runners up - Hockerill

3rd - Leventhorpe

4th - JFAN



Year 9

Winners - St Marys

Runners up - Leventhorpe

3rd – JFAN

4th – SWCHS

5th - Hockerill

6th - Freman College



Year 10

Winners - Leventhorpe

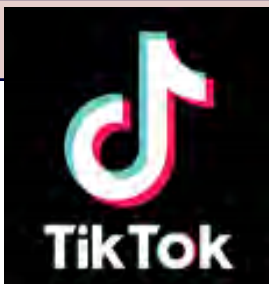
Runners up – St Marys

3rd - Hockerill

4th - JFAN



TIKTOK ~ social media concerns



We would like to inform all parents about the latest TIKTOK challenge encouraging young people to post abusive comments about other pupils in their school.

We encourage all parents to ensure that they monitor their child's social media accounts and phone usage closely to ensure they are keeping themselves safe.

If your child is experiencing abusive comments we highly recommend that they screenshot any evidence of the abuse and close their account down. You can report your concerns to TIKTOK directly or to the UK Safer Internet Centre. Alternatively, you can report your concerns directly to the Police, sharing any evidence that you may have.

The schools behaviour and bullying policy is very clear and any pupil involved with sharing abusive posts will be sanctioned accordingly.



RE DEPARTMENT NEWS...

ReVISION

The RE Department is running evening GCSE RE revision sessions every Wednesday night from 7.30pm to 8.15pm hosted on MS Teams by Mr McMillan. Students do not need to have microphones or cameras on, they can join in just by listening and observing. The sessions are recorded so can be viewed later at a different time.

Catholic Young Writer Award Competition 2022 sponsored by the Catholic Union Charitable Trust

The Competition is open to all students 11-16 years old

1st prize - £80 + a selection of books
2nd Prize - £50 + a selection of books
+ a generous number of runner-up book prizes.

Essay topic = **The Eucharist – why is it so important?**

Begin your essay with Pope John Paul II's words:

"Holy Communion is not ordinary food. It is the bread of eternal life. It is something more precious than gold or silver. It is worth more than anything you can imagine. For this sacred bread is the body and blood of Jesus."

Refer to Matthew 14: 24, Luke 22:19, John 6:22-59

What does the Catechism say?

Research and use 'Ecclesia de Eucharistia' (St John Paul)

Maximum four sides of A4.

Please see Ms Barnes or your RE teacher for more details.

Closing date for competition entries is Monday 30th May 2022

Year 8 Drama



Jesus' resurrection appearances, including those from Sunday's gospel - Jesus having a BBQ breakfast with his disciples and asking Peter three times if he loved him.

It was great to be able to do drama again. Pupils were enthusiastic and engaged and I look forward to doing this with more of my classes.

Mrs J. Lewer
Teacher of R.E





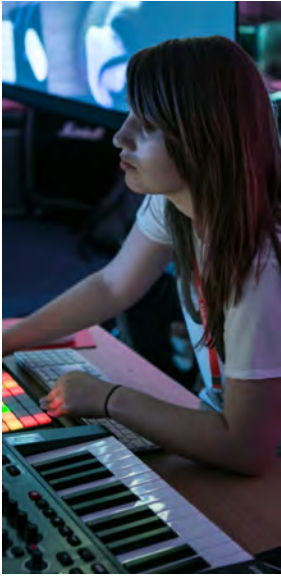
Summer Schools 2022 ~ Music



BIMM
INSTITUTE

Your summer in music starts here...

Calling all guitarists, bassists, drummers, vocalists and aspiring producers: Create and connect with like-minded musicians, singers and producers at our fantastic summer schools.



Each year at BIMM, **we run a range of summer schools for musicians and producers aged 11-17** looking to develop their technique, their confidence as live performers or simply to just have fun. So, if you're a guitarist, vocalist, bassist drummer, or producer, a BIMM Summer School is a great way to spend your break.

We run a variety of courses for all genres and tastes of music, so whether you love indie, pop, R&B, rock and metal or electronic music, there's a summer school for you.

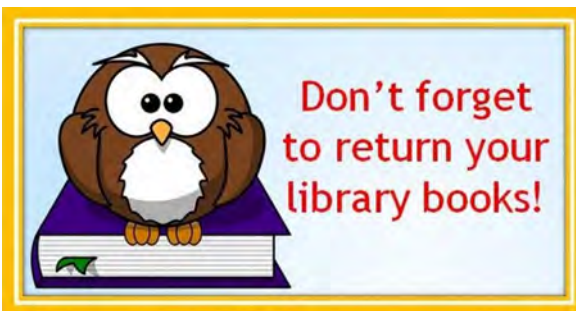
Each summer school is a five-day week and consists of:

- * dedicated tuition for your chosen discipline
- * live performance workshops on stage for performers
- * access to music software and hardware for producers to hone your skills
- * a different special guest each day.

For questions on summer schools at BIMM Institute, or if you'd like more information on how to apply, please contact our Admissions Team on **0344 2 646 666** or email admissions@bimm.ac.uk.

https://www.bimm.ac.uk/summer-school/?utm_campaign=892450_global-connected-newsletter-april22&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eng_email

School Library ~ Reading Cloud & Overdue Books

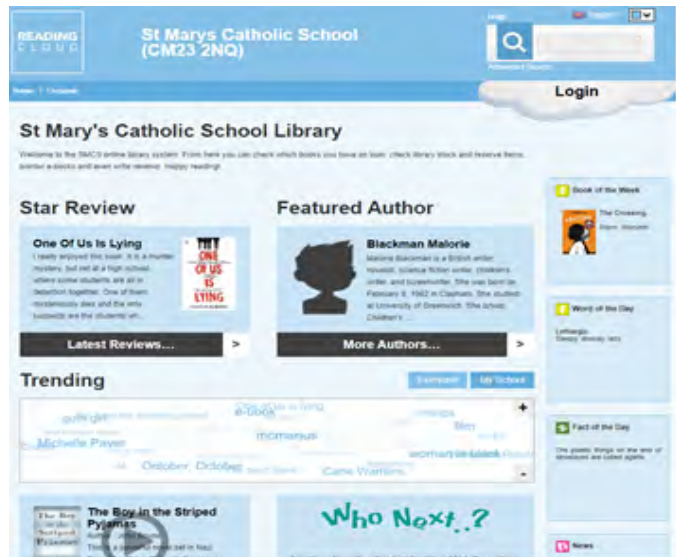


Overdue Books

Two minus housepoints for every overdue library book have been issued to Year 7 students this week. Students in Years 8 to 10 need to check their accounts and **return all overdue books latest Monday 9th May.**

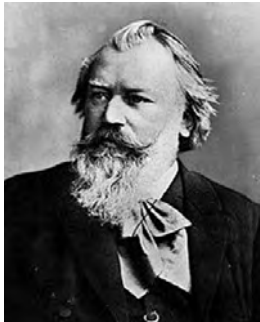
Last week we launched the new online library system for St Mary's, **Reading Cloud**. Students can now log on from any device to search the library catalogue, check their loans, share reviews and find book recommendations.

Students in Years 7 to 10 have now been given their login details for the library's new online system (readingcloud.net).





Monthly Music Magazine



COMPOSER OF THE MONTH - MAY

Johannes Brahms - 7 May 1833 – 3 April 1897 was a German composer, pianist, and conductor of the mid-Romantic period.

Born in Hamburg into a Lutheran family, he spent much of his professional life in Vienna. The young Brahms was forced to play the piano in dance halls to contribute to the family's income as they were so poor.

Brahms composed for symphony orchestra, chamber ensembles, piano, organ, voice, and chorus. A virtuoso pianist, he premiered many of his own works. He worked with leading performers of his time, including the pianist Clara Schumann and the violinist Joseph Joachim (the three were close friends). Many of his works have become staples of the modern concert repertoire.

Robert Schumann was so impressed with Brahms' talent when they met that he was inspired to write an essay entitled 'Neue Bahnen' ('New Paths') which gave Brahms a lot of publicity. Brahms met a Hungarian refugee and violinist by the name of Eduard Remenyi (left) in 1850, and was introduced to a whole range of folk and gypsy music that massively influenced his composing style.

Brahms was an extreme perfectionist. He destroyed many early works – including a violin sonata he had performed with Reményi and violinist Ferdinand David. He once claimed to have destroyed 20 string quartets before he issued his official First in 1873. Over the course of several years, he changed an original project for a symphony in D minor into his first piano concerto. In another instance of devotion to detail, he laboured over the official First Symphony for almost fifteen years, from about 1861 to 1876. Even after its first few performances, Brahms destroyed the original slow movement and substituted another before the score was published.

Brahms strongly preferred writing absolute music that does not refer to an explicit scene or narrative, and he never wrote an opera or a symphonic poem.

When he was 57, Brahms announced that he was finished with composing. However, he was clearly unable to stop his creativity - he produced some incredible late-period works, especially for the clarinet, like his Clarinet Sonatas, Trio and Quintet.

Here is a recording of BRAHMS - Clarinet Quintet Op. 115 - Ébène String Quartet & Damien Bachmann

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Gw8JU53SWY>



MUSIC FOR EASTERTIDE

Music for Easter can be in various forms. Obviously hymns that are sung right up until the feast of the Ascension (26th May) and Pentecost but there has also been a considerable amount of classical music written for this season.

One famous piece is *The Messiah* by the German born and nationalised English composer Handel. It tells of the Promise of a Messiah, Christ's Passion and his Triumph over Death in an oratorio. Even though *Messiah* tells the story of Jesus — from birth to death to Resurrection and beyond, almost all the texts were taken from the Old Testament — not the New. The work premiered in Dublin in 1742 — at Easter time. In fact, *Messiah* was always intended for Lent. It was the Victorians who moved it to Christmas, to revive interest in that then-neglected holiday. Incidentally, the first London performance was a disaster. The fact that a religious work was being performed in a theatre, not a church, scandalized London audiences. Eventually, when Handel gave all the proceedings from *Messiah* to charity, London came around, but only then.



Here is a beautiful rendition of the Aria 'I Know That My Redeemer Liveth' from the third part of the oratorio by Ghanian soprano Francisca Kusi-Ababio

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TVf4phVy8oc>



Dates for your Diary

Whole School Mass
10th May 2022

Music Clubs

Monday: Orchestra
Tuesday: Choir
Wednesday: GCSE Catch Up
Friday: Pop & Rock Group



We are hiring!



**CLICK HERE
FOR LATEST VACANCY INFORMATION**

**WE ARE
HIRING!**

Fire Safety News

**WELCOME!
Spring 2022**

**Hertfordshire Fire
& Rescue**

To our first edition of
the Schools Stay Safe
Newsletter.

We have selected
some helpful safety
messages to help to
keep you and your
family safe this
Spring!

Did you know?

what3words is an easy way to
identify precise locations. Every
3m square in the World has
been given a unique
combination of three words: a
what3words address. Now you
can find, share and navigate to
precise locations using three
simple words.

The emergency services can
use what3words to locate you
if you are in trouble, but they
can only do this if you have the
app

East Herts & Broxbourne Quarterly Schools Newsletter Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue Service



Have you got working Smoke Detectors?

Please check you have working smoke detectors at home. You should have a smoke detector on every floor in your home, preferably in the hallways and close to bedrooms where possible. Check your detectors work once a week by pushing the button in the middle. Don't forget to change the battery once a year – pick a date that is memorable such as your birthday or Christmas so that you remember!

If you do not have smoke detectors at home, Herts Fire and Rescue will carry out a safe and well check for you. They will fit smoke detectors for you for free.

Please ring: **0300 123 4046** to book today!

- It won't cost you a penny and it could save your life.
- All visits are agreed by appointment only at a time to suit you.
- Only uniformed staff will visit and will always carry an ID card.

